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## INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS

ALLEN, GEORGE H., WHITEHEAD, HENRY C., and CHADWICK, F. E. *The Great War*. (1st vol., 2d Ed., revised.) Pp. xxx, 377. Philadelphia: George Barrie's Sons, 1915.

The present work, written by George H. Allen, forms the first of a series of volumes intended by the publishers to cover the history of the war in an unbiased and non-partisan manner, and to present as scholarly an account of the crisis as is possible with the sources of information at our disposal. An introduction by ex-President Taft furnishes a brief summary of the international situation and a discussion of the position of the United States in regard to it, particularly in view of the *Lusitania* case. Of the other volumes under preparation, the second will be devoted to a review of the moral or spiritual forces which prepared the minds of the nations for war, and of the physical resources of the nations and their mobilization, while the third will contain a full record of the outbreak of hostilities and of the military operations in the opening months of the war. The design of the publishers is evidently that the volumes shall make their appeal to the public not only as a written record and discussion of events, but as a collection of illustrations of persons and places which will give vividness to the narrative and a greater sense of intimacy with the motive forces controlling the progress of events. These illustrations, to the number of nearly one hundred, including a number of maps, have been chosen with excellent judgment, while the bookmaking in general is worthy of a firm with a reputation.

Dr. Allen devotes the larger part of the volume to the historical background of the war, and this is followed by a very satisfactory analysis of the negotiations immediately leading up to it. He makes a distinction between the "potential causes" and the "positive causes" of the war, the former being found in the conflict between artificial state lines and the boundaries of nationalities, and in commercial rivalries, false biological theories of national development and the quest for exclusive foreign markets; and the latter being found in the conflict between the Teutonic powers and Russia in the Balkans with Constantinople as the pivotal point. It is interesting to note that in his judgment the commercial rivalry between Great Britain and Germany, which has been so much stressed by German writers as determining the attitude of Great Britain, may be relegated "to a remote place among the potential causes." On the other hand, the growth of German sea power figures prominently among the potential causes. Dr. Allen concedes that Russia's general mobilization was premature, but explains it on the ground of Austria's uncompromising attitude. He is frank to admit that the violation of the neutrality of Belgium was not the dominating motive which led Great Britain to enter the war, but rather an occasion which the British government made use of to obtain the support of the people for what was in the ultimate issue a war of self-preservation. His remarks upon the dangerous influence of the militaristic spirit upon political policies are particularly in point. On the whole Dr. Allen has shown that modern scholarship is capable of presenting an historical narrative which is at once popular in form and yet thoroughly accurate and well balanced.

C. G. FENWICK.